

MAY 15, 1955



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## IT COSTS LITTLE—IT DOES A LOT

**T**HE Congress seldom has occasion to legislate on the subject of the United Nations, and thus the public seldom has an opportunity to express to the Congress its support of the U.N. in specific terms. Today, one of those opportunities presents itself as Congress considers the U.N. Program for Technical Assistance. The requested U.S. contribution to the program is less than seven tenths of one per cent of the request for the 1955-56 Mutual Security Program.

**Q: What is the UNTA program?**

**A:** The U.N. Technical Assistance Program was begun in 1950. It grew out of the need to increase technical help to underdeveloped countries already being provided to a limited extent by the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. The program makes available, at the request of individual countries, experts in such fields as health, agriculture, and mining. It also provides fellowships for learning techniques used in the more advanced countries.

**Q: How much does it cost, and who contributes?**

**A:** In 1955, 65 governments, excluding the United States, will contribute \$13 million. The United States has already contributed \$6.5 million for the first six months of 1955, and if Congress appropriates the \$8.5 million requested by the President for the last six months our contribution would be 53.6 per cent of the total of \$28 million. In 1955, 22 countries increased their contribution over that of 1954.

**Q: How is the program administered?**

**A:** The Technical Assistance Board (TAB) is the U.N. agency responsible for the program. It consists of an executive chairman and the executive heads of the nine Specialized Agencies. A resident representative of the TAB is stationed in

countries receiving technical assistance. He formulates an over-all plan in consultation with the host country. This plan is checked with U.N. technical experts working in the country and with experts in the U.S. technical cooperation program.

This over-all plan is then sent to the TAB which goes over it in the light of money that might be available. The TAB must keep in mind the total balance of the program among individual countries as well as a balance among the different fields, i.e., agriculture, industry, etc.

If the TAB approves the program, it is sent for review to the U.N. Technical Assistance Committee (TAC). This committee consists of representatives of the 18 governments on the U.N. Economic and Social Council. This is a new step, accepted at the 1954 U.N. General Assembly to assure that the program reflects needs of recipient countries. It was also felt that the individual governments should have greater opportunity to see that the program was running properly. The TAB then holds a conference at which the various governments pledge funds for the coming year.

**Q: Why have both U.N. and U.S. programs?**

**A:** The United Nations, by being able to call on various experts from many parts of the world, can furnish specialists which the United States cannot supply. A good example was the need to find an expert to teach Arabic typing and shorthand in a training center in Libya. In medicine, the United States does not have enough available specialists in tropical diseases, because of the rarity of these diseases in this country and because of the demands of the U.S. Armed Forces. Other reasons for a U.N. program include the desire of some countries to work through

an international body rather than an individual government, the economy resulting from obtaining technicians in nearby countries, and the greater number of contributions available when several countries are able to participate.

**Q: What has the U.N. program accomplished?**

**A:** For example: In Iraq the United Nations with the help of UNESCO has worked to establish a faculty of science within the University College at Bagdad. In several Latin American countries and in Libya, Egypt, Ceylon, Iraq, and Thailand, over 1000 trained specialists in fundamental education and community development are working to decrease illiteracy. The 1955 program provides for 1195 technicians and 1472 fellowships.

**Q: How much is the President asking of Congress for the U.N. program?**

**A:** The total amount requested for UNTA for 18 months is \$24 million. Of this, \$8.5 million would be the U.S. contribution for the last six months of 1955 and \$15.5 million would be the total contribution by the United States for 1956. This request will first be considered by the Congress in an authorization bill. After a total amount for the Mutual Security Program has been authorized, the Congress will then act on an appropriation bill. The amount of the appropriation will determine what the United States can pledge to the U.N. program at the pledging conference in December of this year.

If the United States should refuse to appropriate any money, then the entire U.N. program would be put in jeopardy; even if funds were appropriated later, the program would suffer through lack of financial stability and good advance planning.



FROM THE  
**PRESIDENT'S  
DESK**

**T**HERE seems to be general agreement that the national Council of the League which met in April was the most successful Council in recent years. There are probably many reasons for this, but the important one to my mind lies in the calibre and spirit of the superb leadership revealed by the delegate body. Each time the League meets, a new confidence is stirred in me. If the United States can develop this quality of unselfish and enlightened leadership amongst its women, then the country can weather with honor the demands of the 20th century.

This conviction is substantiated by the League's remarkable ability to choose the really vital public questions for its program. Trade is a perfect example. Not only was the League working on it at a crucial time in the history of the nation, it had given consistent attention to the subject for 15 years and it chose this particular year to increase greatly its own and public understanding of the issue. There is no way to measure the extent of League influence in the three-year extension of the Trade Agreements Act, but it is certain that League members contributed substantially and effectively to the recent passage of this legislation. Moreover, trade still represents unfinished business, for League effort is needed in support of the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

The other area of major emphasis, individual liberty, is another and no less important example of the League's capacity to choose the right subject at the right time. From the discussion at the Council I am persuaded that the League has only just gotten under way in this field and that the coming 12 months will reveal great progress. Not only will the League effect a broader and deeper understanding of the conflict between our search for security and our search for freedom, but we will sharpen our concept of values as they pertain to our own organization.

As we embark upon the new program-making period, I hope we will apply all the experience and wisdom we have gained to the end of increasing the League's usefulness to its communities. It takes vision to look ahead and the League has demonstrated an inherent capacity to strike at the heart of the matter.

The discussion at the Council ranged over a multitude of ques-

tions, external and internal, with which the League is concerned. The delegates participated more actively than ever before in budget revision and decided to increase the proposed budget to provide for more field staff. Ways and means to simplify the work of League Boards were explored. Methods to expand League services to our communities were examined. Fall conferences with state Boards were planned so some of the ideas which emerged at the Council could be probed further.

Again and again, as I participate in League meetings I am convinced that this organization presents an illuminating and vivid demonstration—a manageable and understandable one—of self-government, U.S. style, in action. In this country we believe in the dignity, the worth, the capacity of the individual human being. This is the central idea on which our American society is based. It is not just a political idea; indeed it is essentially a religious concept. And it is what unites us. To my mind, this means that collectively we will do what each of us alone is.

As I see the League of Women Voters in action, this rather small number of dedicated women working ceaselessly to dispel political apathy, giving the best years of their lives to keeping the spirit of America alive, the more convinced I am that the ultimate answer lies deep within each single person. Our nation reflects our own image. We need not see *only* through a glass darkly. We can, if we choose, illuminate the scene by the bright light of our own individual worth and quality. The League provides us with a way—a responsive, a positive, a good way!

*Ruby Maxim Lee*

★ **CONGRESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT** ★

**TRADE:** The Senate passed H.R. 1\* a 3-year extension of the Trade Agreements Act, May 4, by a vote of 75 yeas, 13 nays. All changes made in the House-passed bill by the Senate Finance Committee were accepted. A conference between Senate and House members will meet May 18 to iron out discrepancies between the different versions of the bill passed by the two Houses. An analysis of the Act will appear soon in *THE NATIONAL VOTER*.

**CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS:** The Senate May 11 passed S. Res. 94 authorizing \$50,000 for the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, Sen. Hennings (D., Mo.) Chairman, to make a study of liberties guaranteed under the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Early hearings are planned.

**MUTUAL SECURITY:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee began hearings May 5 on proposed \$3.5 billion foreign aid program.

\* Indicates League support.

**Maud Wood Park**

Mrs. Park, the first national President of the League of Women Voters, died on May 8, 1955, at the age of 84. Her interest in woman suffrage began in college days. Mrs. Park's genius for legislative strategy led Mrs. Catt to ask her to direct the congressional work for the Suffrage Amendment. Congressional leaders paid tribute to the dignity with which this campaign was conducted. Her brilliant leadership was recognized in 1920 when she was elected President of the newly formed League of Women Voters. Mrs. Park laid a strong foundation for our organization during the four years of her presidency. We are grateful for the magnificent precedent she set and hope that the League will always live up to her ideals.

**COUNCIL ADOPTS BUDGET**

The 1955 national Council at its April meeting in Washington adopted a budget of \$184,249 for the League's 1955-56 fiscal year. Delegates increased field service to \$45,497, pledged \$158,435 in League support, raised the "New Leagues" figure to \$150, and balanced the budget by withdrawing \$19,464 from Reserve Funds. If you will fill in these figures in the "Proposed Budget" in the March 1 *NATIONAL VOTER*, you will have the complete picture.

**THE LEAGUE TESTIFIES**

On behalf of the League, two national Board members recently testified at Senate Committee hearings. Mrs. Waldo E. Stephens on April 21 commented before a Foreign Relations Subcommittee that "the U.N. Charter is sturdier than many people believe . . . the time is not ripe to consider Charter revision . . . (but if) a review conference is called, any proposal to amend the Charter must be designed to strengthen the U.N." On April 29 Mrs. Oscar M. Ruebhausen testified before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee in opposition to the proposed Bricker Amendment. Copies of the statements are available at 5¢ each.

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